

VZCZCXRO2649

PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN  
RUEHLZ RUEHNEH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHRS RUEHSL RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHAH #1030 2261324  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 141324Z AUG 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3292  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5539  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3259  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3124  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3782  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3797

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001030

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN; DRL/ILCSR FOR MARK MITTELHAUSER  
DOL/ILAB FOR BRANDIE SASSER AND CHARITA CASTRO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EIND](#) [ELAB](#) [ETRD](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: POST NONCONCURRENCE ON UPDATE OF  
E.O. 13126 LIST -- CHILD LABOR FOR COTTON HARVEST

REF: A. STATE 80911

[B](#). ASHGABAT 0092

[1](#). This is post's response to Ref A request for input regarding the inclusion of Turkmenistan on the Executive Order 13126 list of goods produced by child labor. Ref B provided post's findings on the issue of the use of child labor during the cotton harvest, which were compiled during the process carried out to produce the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPA) list of goods. Post was not able to locate any material that reported about the actual use of child labor during the 2008 cotton harvest in Turkmenistan. A pre-harvest August 2008 article, disseminated by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, cited various observers' doubts that the presidential ban on child labor would be effective, but there was no further reporting about the issue in any source.

[2](#). The sources that were relied upon by the Department of Labor in the TVPA process consisted of a list of eleven articles, dated between 2003-2007, which did not provide accurate information about the current situation in Turkmenistan. According to local UNICEF representatives, reports about the widespread use of child labor in the cotton harvest in Turkmenistan predate the government's 2005 ban on the practice. This ban was reaffirmed by President Berdimuhamedov in August 2008. UNICEF was unable to confirm that child labor was used during the 2008 cotton harvest. A 2007 UNICEF study to monitor child employment and educational opportunities indicated a very low level of employment among children between the ages of 12 and 16, with no specifics as to the type or conditions of employment

[3](#). Unfortunately, post did not receive a response from the Government of Turkmenistan to its request for information on any goods produced by child labor or government efforts to combat the problem. However, based on the criteria set forth in Ref A regarding the source of information, its date and extent of corroboration, as well as current Turkmen government policy directed against the practice, post does not concur with the inclusion of Turkmenistan on the revised E.O. list. The information relied on in the TVPA process was

outdated and not corroborated by current sources.  
MILES